MANUAL

AND

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Order of Saint Vincent for Acolytes

"For the Love of Christ and His Church"

(EIGHTH EDITION)

1954

Prayer of the Order of St. Vincent

Almighty God, who hast called *us* Thy servants to the Sacred office of Acolyte in Thy Church, that clothed in white *we* may minister before Thee, *we* pray Thee of Thy great mercy to guide, strengthen, and sanctify *us* by Thy Holy Spirit, that, always doing Thy will, *we* may both by *our* service in Thy House and by *our* daily life please Thee and glorify Thy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

■

Prayer of the Scottish Guild of Servers

O God, who hast called *us* to assist at Thy Holy Altar; sanctify *us*, *we* beseech Thee, by Thy Holy Spirit, day by day, that *we* may worthily fulfill this ministry to the honour and glory of Thy Name and for the welfare of Thy Holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

■

Prayer of the British Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary

Grant, *we* beseech Thee, Almighty God, to *us* Thy servants the spirit of holy fear; that *we*, following the example of Thy holy child Samuel, may faithfully minister before Thee in Thy Sanctuary; through Jesus Christ Thy Son *our* Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. *Amen.*

THE MANUAL

Published by

THE ORDER OF ST. VINCENT
FOR ACOLYTES

Founded St. Vincent's Day
January 22, 1915

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INDEX

	Page
General Information	3
The Admission of an Acolyte	7
The Office	12
The Constitution	18
Admission of Server - Probationer	27
Preparation and Thanksgiving Before and After Serving	29
Additional Prayers	31
The Proper for St. Vincent's Day	34
Service of Re-dedication	38
Re-admission of a Lapsed Acolyte	38
Acolytes	39
Who Was St. Vincent?	40

THE MANUAL

GENERAL INFORMATION

THE ORDER OF SAINT VINCENT is a National Guild of Acolytes, for confirmed men and boys. It is affiliated with the Scottish Guild of Servers October 7th, 1939, and with the (British) Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary March 11, 1948.

* * *

THE CHAPTER, in a parish or mission with a Priest-in-charge, is the normal means of affiliation. Where a Chapter is not possible, individual servers may be admitted into the Order as members of the *Secretary-General's Chapter* with the consent of, and by the Priest-in-charge.

■

Objects of the Order

1. To promote holy living amongst its members.
2. To promote loyal obedience to ecclesiastical superiors.
3. To encourage more frequent attendance at the Holy Eucharist, and more careful preparation for its reception.
4. To promote friendship and brotherhood amongst servers.

Rules

1. To pray to God every day.

2. If physically possible, to be present at the Holy Eucharist every Sunday.

3. To make due preparation before serving and to say the prayer of the Order.

4. To serve in strict accordance with the desires of the Priest whom I may be assisting, irrespective of my own inclination.

5. To receive the Holy Communion, after due preparation, at least monthly and on Christmas Day, Easter, Whitsunday and within the Octave of St. Vincent's Day.

6. To render loyal obedience to my ecclesiastical superiors.

7. To obey diligently the rules of any parochial organization of which I may be a member.

8. Always to speak reverently of Holy things.

The Rules of the Order as set forth in this Manual are to be considered as a minimum requirement for membership. Each Chapter may provide such additional rules as its local use may require.

The Order Hopes

For emphasis on the Anglican Communion-wide-fellowship among servers, versus the parochial; that every server will have a progressive Rule of Life; that he will become intelligently liturgically interested; and that he will so consider the work a lay vocation, and continue indefinitely with the Order.

Acolyte Admission Requirements

Fourteen years of age or older. Confirmed. Communicant. Having served at least nine months; three of the nine months as a probationer. Three months probation required of all before admission even if special dispensation for the more matured server is requested.

Memberships

Bishop, Priest, and Deacon Associates. Active Acolyte. Lay Associate. Honorary Lay Associate. Where there is no Chapter an individual, with the consent of a Priest he serves, may be admitted to the Secretary-General's Chapter.

Medals

The bronze medal is the official insignia of the Order, and remains Chapter property. (Section 9 - Constitution). Silver and other medals may be warded in recognition of long, faithful service.

Officers

The Rector, Priest-in-charge, or Curate is the Chaplain. A mature Warden and a Secretary-Treasurer may be required; otherwise the fewest possible officers, except where local conditions require them.

Dues

Dues, at present, are 50c a member, per year, for all kinds of memberships. Dues must accompany the application for each person. Life Memberships $10.00 and more) are solicited, and are added to the Endowment Fund. Offerings for the Endowment Fund are requested.

Chapter Titles

Any Chapter so desiring is permitted to retain its original name used prior to affiliation with the Order, as " ..... Chapter (or Guild) of the Order of St. Vincent"; or select for the Charter the name of a Patron Saint, or some appropriate title, by which the Chapter will be known parochially.

Charter

A Charter should be applied for, and it will date from the first Admission Service. It should be framed, and hung where it will indicate that a Chapter has been affiliated.

Chapter Regulations

Each Chapter regulates its own life according to local conditions, with the Priest-in-charge as the sole authority. There must be an honest urge towards the Sunday Eucharist rule of worship where local conditions at present prevent the perfect keeping of Rule 2.

Yearly Report

A yearly report must be received concerning every active member, and the stated dues paid.

St. Vincent's Bulletin

Printed and distributed periodically to those paying dues.

A Manual, A Server's Guide, and several Tracts are for sale.

FORM OF ADMITTING AN ACOLYTE

VENI CREATOR

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire.
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.
Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love.
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight.
Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of thy grace.
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where thou art guide, no ill can come.
Teach us to know the Father, Son.
And thee, of both, to be but One;
That, through the ages all along,
This may be our endless song:
Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Then shall the Candidate, vested in a cassock, be brought forward by the Warden, or one appointed by the Chaplain, who shall say:

Reverend Father, I present unto thee this person to be admitted an Acolyte and member of the Order of St. Vincent.

Priest. My Son, what is thy desire?

Answer. I desire to be admitted an Acolyte and to be received in the Order of St. Vincent, that I may share in the devotions and good works of its members.

Priest. Wilt thou endeavor faithfully to fulfill thy duties as an Acolyte?

Answer. I will endeavor so to do.

Priest. Dost thou promise to conform to the rules of the Order so long as thou shalt continue a member of it?

Answer. I do.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father.

V. O Lord, save Thy servant

R. Who putteth his trust in Thee.

V. Send him help from Thy Holy Place.

R. And evermore mightily defend him.

V. Let the enemy have no advantage over him.

R. Nor the wicked approach to hurt him.

V. Lord, hear our prayer.

R. And let our cry come unto Thee.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Give ear, O Lord, to our prayers and vouchsafe to bless this Thy servant, whom we are about to receive in Thy Holy Name to a share in all spiritual blessings and to the companionship of the Order of Saint Vincent, and grant that by Thy grace he may lead a godly life in Thy Church, advancing in holiness, and assisted by the prayers of this Order, may obtain everlasting life: through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Then, turning to the Candidate, he shall say:

I admit thee to be an Acolyte in this Parish of ..... in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

Then, putting the surplice on him, he shall add:

I clothe thee in the white garment of the surplice; see that thou serve God with such reverence and devotion, that thou mayest hereafter be admitted into the ranks of those who, having washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, stand before the Throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His Temple.

Then, (except when the medal to be used has been blessed) turning to the Altar, on which the medal of the Order is laid, he shall say:

V. Our help is the Name of the Lord.

R. Who hath made heaven and earth.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O God, Creator, Preserver, Saviour of mankind, Bestower of Salvation and Giver of spiritual grace, send down Thy bless✠ing upon this medal, that whoso wears it, fortified with heavenly might, may preserve unblemished faith, steadfast hope and fervent charity, and never be parted from Thee, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

Then, turning to the Candidate, he shall say:

I receive and admit thee into the fellowship of the Order of Saint Vincent, and to a share in all its privileges and duties, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Receive this medal in token of thy membership in the Order of Saint Vincent, making thy prayer to our Lord Jesus Christ, that by His merits thou mayest bear it without reproach, and may He guard thee from all adversity and bring thee to everlasting life. Amen.

Then shall the priest sign him with the sign of the Cross, saying:

Almighty God, the creator of heaven and earth, Who hath vouchsafed to lead thee into this company and fellowship, bless ✠ and strengthen thee, that thou mayest tread under foot the head of the serpent, thine enemy, and at length victoriously attain the palm and crown of thine everlasting inheritance, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

■

Ant.: I will go unto the altar of God: even unto the God of my joy and gladness.

PSALM 43

Judica Me

Give sentence with me, O God, and defend my cause against the ungodly people: O deliver me from the deceitful and wicked man.

For thou art the God of my strength: why hast thou put me from thee: and why go I so heavily while the enemy oppresseth me?

O send out thy light and thy truth that they may lead me: and bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy dwelling.

And that I may go unto the altar of God, even unto the God of my joy and gladness: and upon the harp will I give thanks unto thee, O God, my God.

Why art thou so heavy, O my soul: and why art thou so disquieted within me?

O put thy trust in God: for I will yet give him thanks which is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Ant.: I will go unto the altar of God: even unto the God of my joy and gladness.

V. ✠ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

R. Amen.

OUR FATHER

V. O God, make speed to save us.

R. O Lord, make haste to help us.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Ant.: I was glad when they said unto me: we will go into the house of the Lord.

PSALM 84

O how amiable are thy dwellings: thou Lord of hosts!

My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house, and the swallow a nest, where she may lay her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be always praising thee.

Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee: in whose heart are thy ways.

Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well: and the pools are filled with water.

They will go from strength to strength: and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold, O God our defender: and look upon the face of thine anointed.

For one day in thy courts: is better than a thousand.

I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God: than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

For the Lord God is a light and defence: the Lord will give grace and worship, and no good thing shall he withhold from them that live a godly life.

O Lord God of hosts: blessed is the man that putteth his trust in Thee.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Ant.: I was glad when they said unto me: we will go into the house of the Lord.

■

The Chapter, Rev. 7:13-15

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes, and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said unto me: These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the Throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His Temple: and He that sitteth on the Throne shall dwell among them.

R. Thanks be to God.

Office Hymn

Lo, for Christ the deacon Vincent
Warreth in a glorious strife,
And with bold and willing footstep
Mounts the pyre with tortures rife,
While his salt-besprinkled body
Crackling flames bereave of life.

Fierce from glowing embers quicken'd
By the Martyr's blood, they rise,
Yet, as God's unflinching servant,
He endures in dauntless wise,
Unto Christ in supplication
Turning with uplifted eyes.

Glory be to God, and honour
In the highest, as is meet;
To the Son, as to the Father,
And the glorious Paraclete,
Whose all-boundless praise and power
Endless ages shall repeat. Amen.

V. Lord, let my prayer be set forth.

R. In thy sight as the incense.

Ant.: I am the Living Bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this Bread, he shall live forever. (Alleluia)

■

The Song of the Blessed Virgin

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Ant.: I am the Living Bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this Bread, he shall live forever. (Alleluia).

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant unto us, Thy servants, so to follow Thy Blessed Martyr Vincent in all purity and constancy of living: that, bearing witness to Thee upon earth, we may attain the palm of everlasting glory: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Almighty God, Who hast called us Thy servants to the sacred office of Acolyte in Thy Church, that clothed in white we may

minister before Thee; we pray Thee of Thy great mercy to guide, strengthen and sanctify us by Thy Holy Spirit, that always doing Thy will, we may, both by our service in Thy House and by our daily life, please Thee and glorify Thy Name. Amen.

O Almighty God, to whom Samuel ministered before Eli the priest, girded with a linen ephod; grant to us Thy servants the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that, like him, we may minister before Thee with a loving heart and due reverence: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee, and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Here shall follow the admission of Candidates, if there be any; and the Office shall always end with this Memorial.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

Ant.: O Sacred Banquet in which Christ is received: the memory of His Passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given unto us (Alleluia).

V. Thou gavest them Bread from Heaven.

R. Containing in itself all sweetness.

Let us pray.

O God, Who, in the Wonderful Sacrament of the Altar, hast left unto us a perpetual Memorial of Thy Passion: grant us, we beseech Thee, so to venerate the sacred Mysteries of Thy Body and Blood that we may evermore perceive within ourselves the fruit of Thy Redemption: Who livest and reignest

with the Father, and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

V. Let us bless the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

✠*V.* May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen.

(If a Priest Officiates)

✠ The Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amoungst you and remain with you always. Amen.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

ORDER OF SAINT VINCENT

(NATIONAL GUILD FOR ACOLYTES)

ARTICLES

I.

This organization is a voluntary association and shall be called the *Order of Saint Vincent.*

II.

The motto of the Order shall be: *Amori Christi et Ecclesiae.* "For the love of Christ and His Church."

III.

The objects of the Order shall be:

1. To promote holy living amongst its members.

2. To promote loyal obedience to ecclesiastical superiors.

3. To encourage more frequent attendance at the Holy Eucharist, and more careful preparation for its reception.

4. To promote friendship and brotherhood amongst servers.

IV.

THE CHAPTER

1. A Chapter shall consist of two or more confirmed Acolytes in a parish, mission, college, school or group officially recognized by the Anglican Communion, and in charge of Priests recognized by the Anglican Communion. Where a Chapter is not possible, confirmed servers may become members of

the Secretary-General's Chapter with the knowledge and consent of a Priest they serve. On St. Vincent's Day, January 22nd, they shall make a personal report and pay their annual dues to the Secretary-General.

MEMBERSHIP

2. Any lay male communicant fourteen years of age or older of the Episcopal Church, or of any Church in communion with her, who serve at her Altars, who act as Crucifers, as Lay Readers, or otherwise assist her Priests in the Sanctuary and who will subscribe and assent to the Articles and Rules of the Order in the manner hereinafter provided, and who shall have been approved for membership by a Priest of the Church, shall be qualified for membership. Before being admitted an Acolyte, he shall have served at least nine months, of which three months may constitute the probationary period. However long he may have served, or where, he shall serve three months as a probationer.

3. A member ceasing active duty as a server, or one who has been active as a server, may be enrolled as an Associate Member upon application to the Secretary-General. An Associate Member shall be subject to the same rules as active members.

4. Any Bishop, Priest, Deacon, or layman of the Church in good standing may become a Bishop, Priest, Deacon, or Lay Associate. Clerical Associates will be Honorary Members; but Lay Associates shall have been active members of the Order, and shall be subject to the same rules as active members. The Council, however, may by unanimous vote, elect any Bishop, Priest, Deacon, or Layman as an Honorary Associate of the

Order, but the distinction shall remain between Lay Associates and Honorary Lay Associates. Chapter Wardens and other Lay Officers must become at least Honorary Lay Associates.

5. A Priest Associate becoming a Bishop shall be requested to become a Bishop Associate.

V.

Officers

1. The officers shall be a Director-General, an Honorary Chaplain-General, and a Secretary-General and Treasurer.

2. *Director-General.* The Director-General shall be a Priest and a member of the Council, and shall be elected by the Council from the Priests who shall be members thereof. The Director-General shall be elected at the meeting of the Council held during the Octave of the Feast of St. Vincent, or as soon thereafter as convenient; this meeting to be known as the Annual Council Meeting, and shall hold office for one year, or until his successor shall be elected and qualified.

3. *Honorary Chaplain-General.* The Honorary Chaplain-General shall be a Bishop of the Church who shall be elected by the members of the Council. The Honorary Chaplain-General shall be elected by the Council at its meeting during the Octave of the Feast of St. Vincent and shall hold office for one year, or until his successor shall be elected and qualified.

4. *Secretary-General and Treasurer.* The Secretary-General and Treasurer shall be a lay communicant of the Episcopal Church but need not be otherwise a member of the Order. The Secretary-General and Treasurer

shall be elected by the Council at the Annual Council Meeting, and shall hold office for three years, or until his successor shall be elected and qualified. The Secretary-General and Treasurer shall give notice of all meetings of the Council and shall issue all authorized notices to members. He shall conduct the correspondence and keep a true record of all meetings of the Council, and shall have custody of the Constitution and all other documents and papers belonging to the Order. The Secretary-General and Treasurer shall collect all moneys due to the Order and shall disburse the same under the direction of the Council; shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements, and, at the Annual Council Meeting shall submit a final account which shall be audited under the direction of a committee of the Council to be appointed by the Director-General.

5. *Council.* There shall be a Council of ten members, five Priests and five Laymen, (not including the Secretary-General, who shall be ex-officio a member of the Council). Should it be necessary because of the Order's affiliation with other Anglican Communion groups to have in addition to five Priests and five Laymen one or more members, the Council shall elect the required number. The members of the Council shall be elected for two years, and shall serve until their successors have been elected or appointed. The election shall take place at the regular annual meeting of the Council, but in the event of a resignation, the Director-General shall have power to appoint a successor, subject to the confirmation (which may be made in writing) of the other members of the Council. A Priest becoming a Bishop shall automatically resign,

and become a Bishop-Associate. The failure of a Council member to respond to the calls of the Council shall be sufficient cause for the Council to declare his office vacant, and to proceed to fill it. Those elected must be active members or Associates of the Order.

The Warden or Director-General, the Chaplains-General of the Scottish Guild of Servers, and the Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary, or any other signers of "The Declaration on Unity by Servers' Guilds", during their terms of Office, shall be nominated as Honorary Councillors, entitled to attend Council meetings, without voting powers.

VI.

Powers of the Council

The Council shall have power:

1. To fix the time and place for meetings of the Council which shall, unless otherwise appointed, be held during the Octave of the Feast of St. Vincent in every year, or as soon thereafter as convenient. Members of the Council may vote at meetings by written proxy given to other members of the Council.

2. To govern the Order in general and to amend the Constitution, and to do any other thing necessary fully to effect the purposes and work of the Order.

3. To authorize Parochial, Diocesan, Provincial, or Regional Chapters of the Order with proper offices, if the need for the same shall become evident.

4. To determine the policies of the Order by Council Member representation on any group with which the Order is affiliated.

5. To sanction an Office to be said or sung at all meetings of the Order, General or Parochial, but another Office may be used locally upon approval of the Council.

VII.

Regional, Provincial or Diocesan Chapters

Provincial or Diocesan Chapters with proper officers may be organized. The officers must be members of the Order and shall be known as Regional, Provincial or Diocesan Chaplain and Secretary and Treasurer. They shall be appointed by the Council for one year, or until their successors are appointed. Local conditions shall regulate such Chapters, but their organization and methods shall be as simple as possible. They shall be responsible for their own financial obligations, and in no instance shall the Council be held responsible for any of their financial obligations. Where there is such a Chapter, the Chaplain shall make an annual report, and shall be responsible for the annual reports of the Parochial Chapters therein; officiate at institution, admission and other services if requested; encourage Acolyte Festivals, and other gatherings such as retreats, quiet hours and days; and generally forward the work of the Order.

VIII.

Dues

1. The annual dues for all members, active and associate, (except Honorary Members who shall pay no dues unless they wish to make a voluntary contribution) shall be 50c a member yearly, which shall be payable in advance on St. Vincent's Day, January 22nd.

2. If the annual dues of any member shall remain unpaid for one year, he may be dropped from membership at the discretion of the Council after notice requesting the payment of such dues as shall be in arrears.

IX.

Medal of the Order

1. The medal of the Order shall be in such form as shall be from time to time adopted by the Council, and shall be issued to all members upon payment of such charge as shall be from time to time determined by the Secretary-General and Treasurer. In the event of the termination of any membership, the medal of the member terminating his membership shall be returned to the Chapter or Secretary-General and the member returning the medal shall be entitled to receive any sum therefore paid by him for the medal.

2. The bronze medal is the official medal of the Order, and indicates active membership, and is the symbol of faithfulness and dependency. It remains Chapter property, and must not be worn by those who carelessly break the rules of the Order. Probationers do not wear the medal.

3. The silver medal. To encourage faithfulness the Council annually, upon written requests to the Secretary-General not later than December 1st, will recommend a limited number of silver medals to individual Acolytes who have served within the Order for ten years or more. The silver medal will be awarded on St. Vincent's Day, or within the Octave. The award implies that the recipient intends continuing an active member of the Order.

4. Extraordinary silver medal awards. Where an Acolyte has served a very long period, and who, for no fault of his own, was unable to affiliate with the Order through his years of serving; or circumstances warrant the award, application may also be made to the Council for recommendation.

5. The gold-plated medal award, under the same conditions, may be recommended to those having been members of the Order twenty years or more, and it may become personal property.

X.

Annual Reports

Every Parochial Chapter, or any other Chapter, shall send an annual report to the Secretary-General on or before the 15th day of February of each year a report covering the previous year. Accompanying it shall be the dues of members payable in advance. February 15th shall be the last date for receiving individual reports. Chapters failing to send in the annual report with dues shall become dormant, and effect the status of those looking forward to the silver medal award.

XI.

Annual Corporate Communion

There shall be an annual Corporate Communion of the Order on St. Vincent's Day, January 22nd, or within the Octave, when every member of the Order shall receive Holy Communion with special intention for the membership, all members of the Scottish and English Guilds, and the blessing of Almighty God upon all who serve Him at Altars.

XII.

Discipline

The Clergy, as Chapter Chaplains, shall administer discipline as required. They shall faithfully endeavor to see that the rules are kept; that the Offices are said frequently; that Acolytes will be instructed to say the prayers of the Order before and after serving; that provision shall be made for liturgical instruction; and that the members will be encouraged in having a rule of life.

XIII.

Incorporation

The Council may, at its discretion, organize a membership corporation under the laws of any State of the United States of America for the purpose of more effectively carrying out the business details of the Order. If such corporation be organized, all money and other assets of the Order may be transferred to such corporation, and the expenses of the organization thereof paid thereout. The trustees or directors of any such corporation shall be the members of the Council, and every member of the Order shall become a member of such corporation.

ADDENDA

(Offices and Other Suggestions)

ADMISSION OF A SERVER
A PROBATIONER

The Hymn: "Come, Holy Ghost our souls inspire." (Page 7). The probationer, vested in a cassock, shall be brought forward by the Warden, or Senior Acolyte, who shall say:

Reverend Father, I present to you

(Name) .....

to be received as a Probationer of the Order of Saint Vincent for Acolytes.

Priest: Do you desire to be admitted into the Fellowship of this Chapter?

Answer: I do.

Priest: Do you promise to observe the rules set out for Probationers, and to conform to the conditions laid down for servers in this Chapter?

Answer: I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my Helper.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

V. O Lord, save Thy servant.

R. Who putteth his trust in Thee.

V. Send him help from Thy Holy Place.

R. And evermore mightily defend him.
V. O Lord, hear our prayer.
R. And let our cry come unto Thee.
V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with thy Spirit.

Let us pray.

(*Priest faces the Altar*)

Give ear, O Lord to our prayers and vouchsafe to bless this Thy servant, whom we are about to receive in Thy Holy Name to the fellowship of this Chapter of the Order of Saint Vincent, and grant that by Thy grace he may lead a godly life in Thy Church, advancing in holiness, and assisted by the prayers of the Order of Saint Vincent, may obtain everlasting life: through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Ghost, One God, world without end. Amen.

Then, turning to the Probationer, he shall say:

(*Name*) .....
I admit you to be a Probationer of this Chapter of the Order of Saint Vincent, and to be a Server in this Parish, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Priest shall then end this form as he shall think appropriate, concluding with a Blessing.

PREPARATION AND THANKSGIVING BEFORE AND AFTER SERVING

* * *

General Direction

Our attitude in Church is largely determined by our attitude outside. In other words, we must try to make our whole life a context for our serving.

A good way to arrive at this is by taking great care of our approach to our service. It is a mistake to leave a gap between our preparation at home and the immediate preparation in Church just before the service. The time we spend in walking to Church can either harm our approach or aid it tremendously.

Regard that walk as a pilgrimage, and, like the pilgrims of old, cultivate the habit of reciting psalms and hymns and holy aspirations. Amongst other things, the following are worth learning by heart:

For the approach to Church — Psalms 23, 25, 27, 84, 121, 122.

For the return from Church — Psalms 103, 150; Magnificat; Nunc Dimittis; parts of Benedicite.

You may remember various hymns suitable for either. (*From The Manual of the Scottish Guild of Servers.*)

Before Serving at the Altar

✠ In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Blessed Jesus, Lover of holy souls, may my thoughts, words and actions be filled with love for Thee, and with reverence for Thy

Holy Sanctuary; and grant that by my loving service here on earth in Thy Holy Temple, and by a life of obedience to Thy Holy Will, I may be made worthy through Thy Grace to enter that Glorious Temple, not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens; where Thou livest and reignest with the Father in the Unity of the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

After Serving at the Altar

✠ In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

O ye priests of the Lord, bless ye the Lord: praise him and magnify him for ever.

O ye servants of the Lord, bless ye the Lord: praise him and magnify him for ever.

O ye spirits and souls of the righteous: bless ye the Lord, praise him and magnify him for ever.

O ye holy and humble men of heart, bless ye the Lord: praise him and magnify him for ever.

* * *

Let the worship of this my service be pleasing unto Thee, O Holy Trinity; and grant that this Sacrifice which I, unworthy, have joined in offering before Thy Divine Majesty, may be acceptable unto Thee and may obtain favour through Thy Loving-kindness, for myself and all for whom It has been offered: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

or

O God, Who of Thy infinite love hast suffered me to minister this day before Thee at Thine Altar; mercifully pardon the imper-

fections of my service, and vouchsafe to grant that it may be acceptable to Thee, through the merits of Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end. Amen. (*S. G. S.*)

* * *

Blessed, praised and adored be Jesus Christ on His Throne of Glory, and in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen.

* * *

May the divine assistance remain with us always. Amen.

■

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

Thanks be to Thee my Lord,
Jesus Christ,
For all the benefits Thou hast
given me,
For all the pains and insults
Thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer,
Friend, and Brother,
May I know Thee more clearly,
May I love Thee more dearly,
May I follow Thee more nearly.
Amen.

ST. RICHARD OF CHICHESTER.

* * *

O Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost didst send the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, to abide in thy Church unto the end; Bestow upon us whom thou hast called to serve thee in thy sanctuary his manifold gifts of grace, that with minds enlightened by his truth and hearts purified by his presence we may day by day be strengthened with power in the inward man; through

Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. Amen. (*S. G. S.*)

* * *

O God, who hast knit together heaven and earth by the eternal sacrifice of thy blessed Son, grant us by faith to pierce through this veil of flesh, that seeing thee as thou art, we may worship thee in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*S. G. S.*)

* * *

O Almighty God, who didst endue with singular grace the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord: Vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to hallow our bodies in purity, and our souls in humility and love; through the same our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the Unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen. (*S. G. S.*)

* * *

Memorial of the Faithful Departed

Antiphon. I saw a great multitude which no man could number, clothed with white robes, and with palms in their hands.

V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
R. And let light perpetual shine upon them.

V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O Lord, the Maker and Redeemer of all believers; grant to the faithful departed all the unsearchable benefits of thy Son's Passion, that in the day of his appearing they may be manifested as thy children;

through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*S. G. S.*)

* * *

O God, the King of Saints, we praise and magnify thy holy Name for all thy servants who have finished their course in thy faith and fear, for the Blessed Virgin Mary, for the holy Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, and Martyrs, and for all other thy righteous servants; and we beseech thee that, encouraged by their example, strengthened by their fellowship, and aided by their prayers, we may attain unto everlasting life; through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*S. G. S.*)

* * *

For a Departed Acolyte

Almighty God, Who called Thy servant ..... to the sacred office of Acolyte, that clothed in white he might minister before Thee in Thy visible Church; we pray Thee of Thy great mercy to so guide, strengthen and sanctify him by Thy Holy Spirit, that continuing to do Thy will he may serve Thee more fully in Thy invisible Church and may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in Thy heavenly Kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

* * *

Absolve, O Lord, we beseech Thee, the souls of Thy servants, who have departed out of this life, from the sins which, through frailty, they committed; and whatsoever was wanting to the completion of their penitence, do Thou mercifully supply by Thine infinite merits; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PROPER

St. Vincent, Deacon, Martyr

January 22nd—*Double* (*Red*)

Introit

The righteous shall rejoice in thy strength, O Lord; exceeding glad shall he be of thy salvation. Thou hast given him his heart's desire. (Psalm 21.) For thou shalt prevent him with the blessings of goodness: and shall set a crown of pure gold upon his head. Glory be . . . The righteous shall . . . (to Psalm).

The Collect

Almighty God, grant unto us thy servants so to follow thy blessed Martyr Vincent in all purity and constancy of living, that, bearing witness to thee upon earth, we may attain the palm of everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

For the Epistle—Wisdom 10:10-14

The Lord guided the righteous man in right paths, shewed him the kingdom of God, and gave him knowledge of holy things, made him rich in his travails, and multiplied the fruit of his labors. In the covetousness of such as oppressed him he stood by him, and made him rich. He defended him from his enemies, and kept him safe from those that lay in wait, and in a sore conflict he gave him the victory; that he might know that godliness is stronger than all. When the righteous was sold, he forsook him not, but delivered him

from sin: he went down with him into the pit, and left him not in bonds, till he brought him the sceptre of the kingdom, and power against those that oppressed him. As for them that had accused him, the Lord God shewed them to be liars, and gave him perpetual glory.

(or)

FOR THE EPISTLE — Isaiah 43:1

Thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel: Fear not; for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overthrow thee: when thou walkest through the fire thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee; therefore will I give men for thee and people for thy life. Fear not, for I am with thee, the Lord thy God.

GRADUAL

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord: he hath great delight in his commandments. (V) His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generations of the faithful shall be blessed. Alleluia, alleluia. (V) Thou shall set, O Lord, a crown of pure gold upon his head. Alleluia.

(After Septuagesima, omit Alleluia and all that follows it and say the Tract.)

TRACT

Thou hast given him his heart's desire: and hast not denied him the request of his lips. (V) For thou shalt prevent him with the blessings of goodness. (V) And shalt set a crown of pure gold upon his head.

THE HOLY GOSPEL—St. Matthew 10:34-42

Jesus said unto his disciples, Think not that I am come to send peace on the earth; I am not come to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

OFFERTORY

Thou crownest him with glory and worship: thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands, O Lord.

SECRET

We offer unto thee, O Lord, the Gifts of our devotion: may they be pleasing unto thee for the honor of thy righteous servant, and also through thy mercy be rendered salutary unto us; through . . .

COMMUNION

He that will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.

POST-COMMUNION

Almighty and everlasting God, who didst strengthen thy blessed Martyr Vincent with the virtue of constancy in faith and truth: Grant us in like manner for love of thee to despise the prosperity of this world, and to fear none of its adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

or

We beseech thee, Almighty God: that we who have received this heavenly Food may, at the intercession of thy blessed Martyr Vincent, be defended against all adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

SUGGESTED FORM OF SERVICE OF RE-DEDICATION

(For use during St. Vincentide, or at other times)

Introductory remarks by the Chaplain. In the Name, etc. Let us witness to our common faith in the words of the Nicene Creed. Our help is in the Name of the Lord, etc. Our Father . . .

Almighty God, Whose Dear Son, in His wonderful love for the souls of mankind, instituted the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar; and calls men to serve at earthly Altars; we here rededicate ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable holy, living sacrifice, that He will dwell in us and we in Him. Strengthen us, we beseech thee, O Lord, with the Holy Ghost the Comforter, and daily increase in us thy manifold gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and ghostly strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and fill us, O Lord, with the spirit of holy fear. Daily increase in us more and more until we come to thine everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Prayer for the Order; the Scottish Guild of Servers; The Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary. For all Acolytes and Servers in military service. For the departed. The Blessing.

* * *

Re-Admission of a Lapsed Admitted Acolyte

The Chaplain may adapt parts of the Admission Service for an Acolyte, and conclude with the foregoing prayer, (in the singular), and conclude appropriately.

Acolytes

One of the minor orders peculiar to the Western Church, although the name is Greek.

The word acolyte comes from a Greek word akolouthos (Latin: sequens), meaning a young servant or attendant who waits continually upon another: a follower.

About the end of the 2nd or early in the 3rd century, other new officers below the order of deacons were introduced, amongst them this of Acolytes, though only in the Latin Church as a distinct order. In the rituals of the Greek Church the word occurs only as another name for the order of subdeacon.

The form of ordination employed in the case of Acolytes is prescribed by a canon of the Fourth Council of Carthage. "When any Acolythist is ordained, the bishop shall inform him how he is to behave himself in his office; and he shall receive a candlestick with a taper in it from the archdeacon, that he may understand that he is appointed to light the candles of the church. He shall also receive an empty pitcher to furnish wine for the Eucharist of the blood of Christ."

Hence it appears that the Acolyte's office at that period consisted chiefly in two things, viz., lighting the candles of the church and attending the officiating priest with wine for the Eucharist. Before the year 1300 the four orders of acolyte, exorcist, reader, and ostiarius began to be conferred in the Western Church.

Who Was St. Vincent?

St. Vincent, a Deacon of the Spanish Church, was born at Saragossa, and martyred at Valencia, A. D. 303 during the Diocletian persecution, the tenth and last, at about the same time that St. Alban, the first martyr of the British Church, suffered in England.

Renowned as a preacher, glorified by the severity of his sufferings, and praised for the fortitude with which he bore them, he is especially remembered for his humility, in that, as a Deacon, the lowest Order in the ordained Ministry, he served his Bishop faithfully.

St. Vincent is one of the few martyrs in the famous Fourth Century of Martyrdom whose acts are quite authentic. They may be traced to a contemporaneous age.

In art he is young, mild, beautiful; is vested as a Deacon, frequently as a Subdeacon, bearing a palm (of victory) and sometimes a smoking censor.

The instrument of his torture is a gridiron on which his salt-besprinkled body was burned, and broken pottery over which his body was dragged. Usually near him is perched a crow or raven, symbolical of restlessness of the Saints in the world.

His relics are at Valencia, Spain.

DECLARATION ON UNITY BY SERVERS' GUILDS

"The Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary, the Order of St. Vincent and the Scottish Guild of Servers being conscious of a common possession of Unity of Purpose in a common endeavor to raise the Spiritual Tone of Altar Servers in the Anglican Church by Prayer, Work and Brotherhood, do hereby declare that Membership of one Society shall include Membership of the others for any Member who shall move into the Area of another Guild. Introduction shall be made by the Secretary-General of the Member's former Guild, and Probationers shall complete their period of Probation according to the Rules of the Local Guild. As a formal expression of this Union, the Warden or Director-General, the Chaplains-General and the Secretaries-General of the three Guilds, during their terms of Office, shall be nominated as Hon: Councillors of the other Guilds, and Councillors of any one particular Guild shall be entitled to attend, without voting powers, Council Meetings of the others as and when an opportunity offers. A regular exchange of Reports and Information shall be made between the three Guilds."

(Adopted by the Council of the O. S. V. on March 11th, 1948)